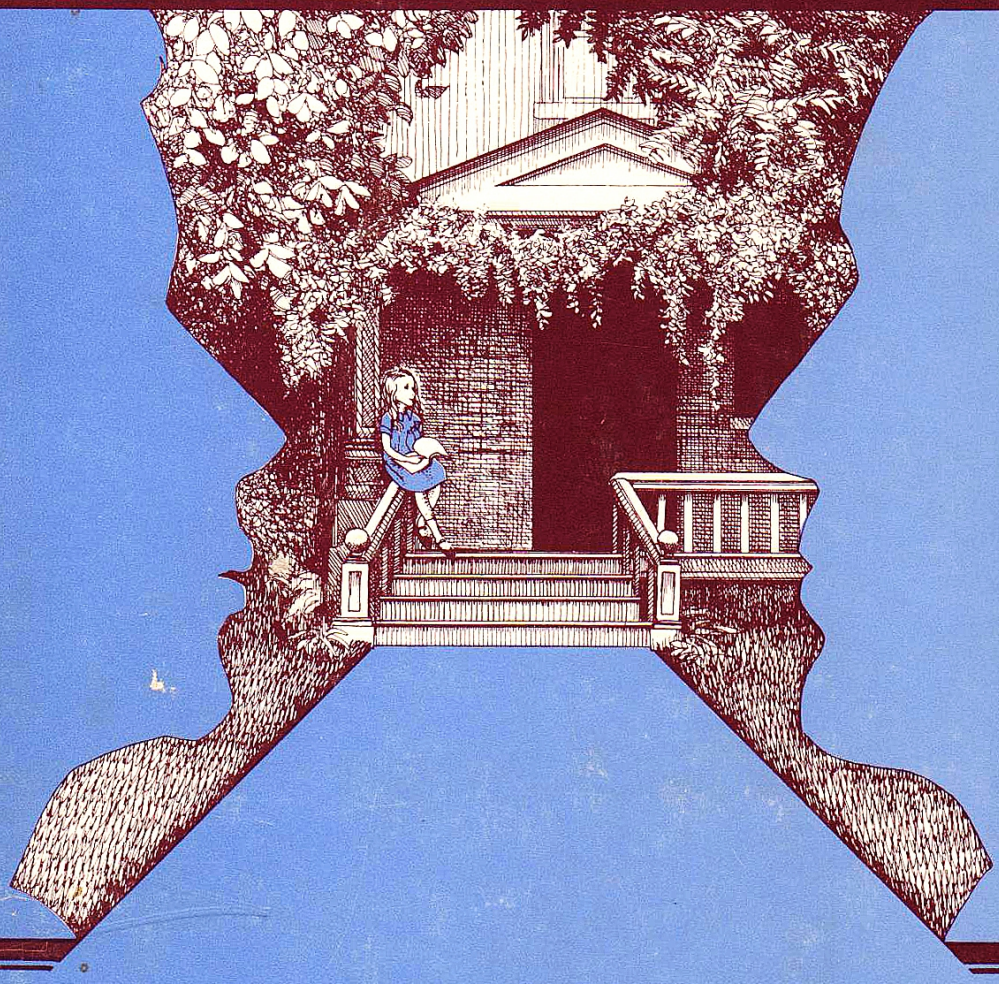
PARADE ON AN EMPTY STREET



a novel by

Margaret Drury Gane

PARADE ON AN EMPTY STREET
by Margaret Drury Gane

Encountering someone you knew long ago can be a nerve-racking experience. What do you say? Does the flood of memories mean as much to them as it does to you? In this moving and very human story, Keith Gillies sees a woman he knew as a child, and is plunged back into his youth, reliving the events of their strange and special friendship.

It is 1939. War is threatening, and an August heat wave hangs sullenly over Toronto. When a young girl no one has seen before moves in across the street from eleven-year-old Keith, there is endless speculation about her identity—and why she would be sent alone to live with the widowed and bitter old Mrs. Upshaw.

Gradually Keith becomes fascinated by the girl Shirley: her strange clothes; her rigid and unnatural shyness; and her mysterious and forbidding past. She becomes a focus for Keith's imagination—a secret part of his life, separate from his friends, his life at school and on the street, and his family. And she provides an escape for him when a visit from Durham Stott, an old friend of Keith's mother, causes personal conflict and upheaval within his own home. As Keith persists in his attempts to strengthen his friendship with Shirley, he triggers a series of startling, sometimes frightening events that expose past tragedies and present emotions.

Against the tense atmosphere of wartime, Margaret Drury Gane has written a story of childhood remembered, a story with a richness and poignancy that will move every reader.

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Margaret Drury Gane is a writer who grew up in Toronto in the same locale as the setting of her novel, *Parade on an Empty Street*. Her short stories and feature articles on a wide variety of subjects have been published in several magazines, including *Chatelaine, Saturday Night* and *Weekend*, and she was a contributing editor at *Weekend* up to 1977. She lives in Toronto with her husband and four children.

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Shirley's closed door claims my mind as it always did, for she is part of my childhood, and a past we shared so strangely—far back, long before the Beatles, before the high school girls of 3B, who wore loafers and had brothers in the army, and put on crimson lipstick with a photo of Rita Hayworth propped by the mirror. . . . Shirley touched my life before much had made it memorable. . . .